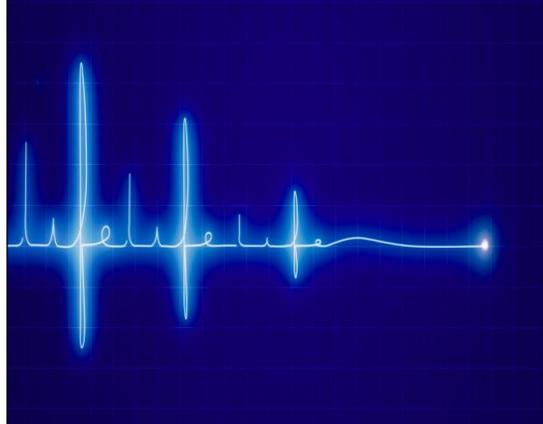


GMIPA Newsletter

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Serving

New Mexico

since 1997

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575.538.2355

GILA MULTI-SPECIALTY INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION

GMIPA MISSION:

To organize and operate a quality-driven and cost effective health care delivery system. The association consists of healthcare providers who enter into membership agreements with GMIPA to facilitate an environment that promotes healthcare practice viability.

ICD-10 Moving Forward

The health care industry is ready for ICD-10, and Congress should not further delay its implementation. That was the strong message from many physicians and health care executives who testified last month at the health subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee that it is time to finally pull the trigger on the new code set. And Congress may be taking the message to heart.

Referencing a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that showed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is on track to process and pay claims with the new codes, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-UT, said he saw no further reason to delay ICD-10. Hatch's comments—and other recent developments—may be a sign that momentum for the implementation of ICD-10 is reaching a critical threshold. And it's about time, Sue Bowman, the senior director of the American Health Information Management Association's coding policy and compliance, told the health subcommittee. Congress should allow the United States to keep pace with other industrialized nations who adopted ICD-10 years ago. "As a result of the two one-year delays granted by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2012 and Congress in 2014, the health care industry has had more than six years to prepare," Bowman said. "This length of time is more than adequate for all segments of the health care industry to be ready for transition."



March - Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

If everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented.

April - Alcohol Awareness Month

Visit: [CDC: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](http://www.cdc.gov)

May - National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

People of all ages and body types can benefit from regular physical activity.

UHC Revision to the Laboratory Services Policy

The AMA recently added new Codes within the Pathology and Laboratory section of CPT codes 80300-80377. To align with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance on the reporting of drugs of abuse testing, **UnitedHealthcare** will no longer reimburse CPT 80300-80377 until more definitive direction is received from CMS on how these codes should be paid. The change to the policy will become effective for claims with dates of service on and after June 1, 2015.

For more information on the reporting of these codes, please refer to:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/Downloads/CY2015-CLFS-Codes-Final-Determinations.pdf>



The Biller and Coder Corner

UHC TRICARE BONUSES

Network and non-network physicians (MDs and Dos), DMPs, oral surgeons and optometrists who qualify for Medicare bonus payments in Health Professional Shortage Areas may receive a 10% for claims submitted to TRICARE.

Providers may determine if they are in a HPSA by accessing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services search tool at

cms.hhs.gov/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses.

In addition, providers will find all detailed information needed to apply for the bonuses.

For providers who are eligible, UHC TRICARE's claims processor will calculate a 10% quarterly bonus payment for claims that contain the modifier AQ. The modifier must be placed LAST in box 24D of the CMS-1500 claim forms.

GMIPA/BCBS Contracts Currently Being Negotiated

The GMIPA is currently reviewing all lines of service for BCBS and addressing reimbursement expectations and requests. As you may be aware, the four lines of service are:

1. BCBS Commercial
2. BCBS Community (Exchange)
3. BCBS Centennial (Medicaid)
4. BCBS Medicare Advantage

Please contact the GMIPA office at 575-538-2355 or email:

rebekka.vanness@gmipa.com to receive your ballots and make your requests!



Flawed Regulations Will Stand if Physicians Sit Out

By [Daniel Essin, MA, MD](#)

In my recent article, "[Well-Intentioned Physician Mandates Lack Success](#)," I commented on the dismal track record of grand schemes and the accumulating evidence of their ineffectiveness. Schemers have a goal: public or covert, selfish or aimed at the greater good. The grand schemes that I cited, and many others, are based on assumptions about what will, must, or ought to happen as well as an assumption that the scheme itself will cause no undesirable side effects (aka unintended consequences). I suggested that now, with Republicans in control of Congress, and knowing their professed dislike of regulation, they should take aim at those schemes for which there is no evidence. I have two bits of advice for providers today; get organized and stand up for and act on your beliefs.

The federal government, through its control of Medicare and Medicaid funding controls, and for all intents and purposes, physicians' working conditions and remuneration. This makes the government the de facto employer, whether they see Medicare/Medicaid patients or not, since the regulations affect all physicians. Independent practitioners will need to organize if they hope to counteract this trend.

Only if physicians vote with their feet and wallets and the patients are lining up at government's doors for care, will the message hit home that regulation has run amok. Until then, political aspirations and money from special interests will trump complaints from individuals, the AMA, or the AAPS. There are two choices: accept whatever is imposed on you or act decisively to oppose it. If physicians don't care enough to act decisively, the regulations will stand.

To view the complete article visit:

<http://www.physicianspractice.com/blog/flawed-regulations-will-stand-if-physicians-sit-out>



Teaching Providers

The "[Guidelines for Teaching Physicians, Interns, and Residents](#)" Fact Sheet (ICN 006347) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on physician services in teaching settings. It includes information on payment for physician services in teaching settings, general documentation guidelines, evaluation and management (E/M) documentation guidelines, and exception for E/M services furnished in certain primary care centers. It also includes resources and a glossary.

CMS National Impact Assessment

On March 2, CMS released the [2015 National Impact Assessment of Quality Measures Report](#). The report demonstrates that the nation has made clear progress in improving the healthcare delivery system to achieve the three aims of better care, smarter spending, and healthier people.

This report is a comprehensive assessment of quality measures used by CMS. The report summarizes key findings from CMS quality measurement efforts and recommended next steps to improve on these efforts.

Delegated Credentialing Bill, SB220, on the Governor's Desk!

It has been a long time coming. The Delegated Credentialing bill presented by Senator Pirtle (R) on January 25, 2015 was one of several to have come up over the years. State lawmakers who are in support of both business and healthcare, recognized the importance of this bill. The Bill passed the senate and house and is now of the desk of our Governor awaiting a signature. She has until April 10 to sign or veto this bill. We urge you to contact the governor's office at: (505) 476-2200 and tell her that New Mexico healthcare providers support it as well.

Become a Member

We provide infrastructure, negotiating clout for managed care contracts and a forum to discuss and promote policies that support providers while increasing the quality of services to the patients they serve. As a member of the GMIPA, you are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of these benefits. All new healthcare professionals joining our organization must be certified. Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.gmipa.com. If you have questions, please contact the GMIPA Administrator, Rebekka VanNess, at 575-538-2355 or email at rebekka.vanness@gmipa.com

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